

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 9877 號七十七百六千九第 日五十月二十年四十緒光 1903, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16th, 1899. 三拜禮 號六十月正年癸酉 1903, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16th, 1899. 三拜禮 號六十月正年癸酉

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.
January 14, Active, Danish str., 355, Revabek, Halphong 15th January, Rice—ARMOR, KANBRO & Co.
January 14, ANTON, German steamer, 385, D. Aenebo, Pakhoi 11th January, and Hoilow 18th, General—WILSON & Co.
January 14, GLAUCUS, British str., 1,382, W. T. Hannah, Glasgow via Liverpool 24th November, and Singapore 8th January, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.
January 15, JOHANN, German str., 398, Bings, Miao 15th January, General—CHINESE.
January 15, AMOY, German str., 815, Kohler, Whampoa 15th January, General—STRESEN & Co.
January 15, TELEMACUS, British str., 1,421, Henry Jones, Shanghai 8th January, Amoy 11th, and Swatow 14th, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.
January 15, NINGPO, German str., 742, Schels, Shanghai 12th January, General—STRESEN & Co.
January 15, RIO LIMA, Portuguese g-b, Jose Blicher, S. Barbara, from Macao.
January 15, OALING, British str., 4,206, Pearn, San Francisco 18th December, and Yokohama 10th January, Mails and General—O. S. N. Co.
January 15, CHINA, German steamer, 1,100, Hays, Saigon 10th January, Paddy—CHINESE.

CLEARANCES.

AT THE TIANHOU MASTER'S OFFICE.
15th JANUARY.
Wingamp, British str., for Singapore.
Borinda, Italian str., for Singapore.
Johann, German str., for Hoilow.
Zafro, British str., for Manila.
China, German str., for Swatow.
Daniel Barnes, Am. ship, for New York.

DEPARTURES.

January 14, PERING, German str., for Shanghai.
January 15, NAKOIA, British str., for Swatow.
January 15, CHENG CHOW, British str., for Amoy.
January 15, BORINDA, Italian str., for Bombay.
January 15, RIVERSDALE, British steamer, for Nagasaki.
January 15, WINGAMP, British str., for Calcutta.
January 15, ZAFRO, British str., for Manila.
January 15, WM. MANSON, British bark, for London.
January 15, NINGPO, German str., for Whampoa.

PASSENGERS.

Per *Anton*, str. from Pakhoi, 40—58 Chinese.
Per *Glaucus*, str. from Glasgow, 40—Mr. C. Crumpton, and 27 Chinese, from Singapore.
Per *Telemacus*, str. from Shanghai, 40—Mrs. Shaw, and 400 Chinese.
Per *Ningpo*, str. from Shanghai—Mr. Sedman, and 32 Chinese.
Per *Gauche*, str. from Yokohama—Mrs. J. H. Bull and son, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Flint, Miss M. Wheeler, Messrs. W. Lamb, J. J. Mulvey, and F. Linde, and 25 Chinese.
Per *Sully*, str. from Yokohama—For London via Marseille—Miss Duncan, Messrs. G. Christy and J. Eaton. For Marseille—Miss Lewis. From Hongkong—For Singapore—Messrs. R. and J. Paton.

REPORTS.

The German steamer *Ningpo*, from Shanghai 14th January, reports had moderate N.E. monsoon, and for the part during the voyage gloomy and rainy weather.
The British steamer *Glaucus*, from Glasgow and Liverpool 24th November, and 8th January, reports had light to moderate monsoon and sea weather from Singapore to port.
The British steamer *Gauche*, from San Francisco 18th December, and Yokohama 10th January, reports from San Francisco to Yokohama had westerly winds throughout. From Yokohama to Shanghai variable winds and weather, thence to Hongkong fresh monsoon and fine weather. Time, 5 days 7 hours 7 min.

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE CONTRACT.

A HANDSOME AMERICAN MANUAL AND PEDAL BASS ORGAN.
Almost New.
DIMENSIONS.—Length, 4 feet 11 inches; height, 5 feet 6 inches; width, 4 feet 4 inches. In Walnut case, carved and polished.
The instrument has Six Octaves of Keys, C Scale, Six Sets of Reeds, Fifteen Stops, viz.: Oboe, Flute, Violoncello, Principal, Clarinet, Flute, Horn, Trombone, Cornet, Clarinet, Bourdon, Pedal, Manual to Pedal, Grand Organ, Foot Pedal, Swell Foot Pedal, Foot Organ, Pedals, Row Reeds, Pedals—1 Set 30 Notes, Pedals, 16 feet.
Can be seen at the Office of the Daily Press any morning between the hours of 10 A.M. and Noon.

PHOTOGRAPHS! PHOTOGRAPHS! PHOTOGRAPHS!

The Undersigned has to inform the Public that he has just received New Instruments of the latest invention for Photographing in all its Branches, and respectfully solicits the patronage of those wishing to be photographed. To ensure the best results, the photographer has called to his assistance a thoroughly experienced man from his famous Studio in Nagasaki.
Charges are extremely low, and punctuality and dispatch guaranteed.
Orders to take Groups or Objects out of doors instantly responded to.
Photographs taken in any weather.
H. UTEN.
Queen's Road.
Hongkong 18th October, 1898. [1922]

WINTER TIME TABLE.

THE KOWLOON FERRY.
SPECIAL SERVICE.
"MORNING STAR."
Runs Daily as Ferry Boat between PEDDAR'S WHARF and Tsim-Tsa-Tsui at the following hours:
Leaves Kowloon Leaves Hongkong
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INTIMATIONS.

1889. IN PREPARATION. 1890.
THE CHINA DIRECTORY.
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE CHINA DIRECTORY.
(TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL ISSUE).
COMPLETE, WITH APPENDIX, PLANS, &c., &c.,
Royal 8vo., 1890. \$5.00.
SMALLER EDITION, Royal 8vo., 1890. \$3.00.

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
will be thoroughly revised and brought up
to date, and again much increased in bulk.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

HAVE JUST RECEIVED THEIR

ANNUAL SUPPLY OF

LAWN GRASS SEED

AND

SWEET CORN.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 16th January, 1890.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be

addressed to "The Editor," and these in business "The

Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their name

and address with communications addressed to the

Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good

faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one

side of the paper only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not

ordered for a fixed period will be continued until

countermanded.

Orders for copies of the Daily Press should be

sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After that hour the supply is limited.

TELEPHONE NO. 12.

BIRTHS.

On 21st December, 1889, on board the British bark

Lady Harcourt, of Rangoon, Burmah, the wife of

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REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

[SUPPLIED TO THE "DAILY PRESS"]

LONDON, 13th January.

THE SACKVILLE INCIDENT.

The papers last before Parliament in connection

with the Sackville case show that the

Government had been misled by the

information given by the Sackville family.

ROYAL BETROTHAL.

The Carlewit has been betrothed to the

Princess Alice of Hesse.

[FROM SINGAPORE PRESS.]

LONDON, 14th January.

CHARGE AGAINST A BRITISH

AMBASSADOR.

The Cologne Gazette accuses Sir Robert

Morier, now British Ambassador to St. Petersburg,

and formerly Minister at Darmstadt, of having

conveyed to the Prussian Government the news

that the Prussians were crossing the Moselle.

Sir Robert Morier has published letters written

to Count Herbert Bismarck in December

last, in which was enclosed a denial elicited from

Count Herbert Bismarck in August. Finding that

Count Herbert had mentioned the accusation to

several persons, Sir Robert appealed to him as a

man of honor to publish an official denial of so

foolish a libel. Count Herbert refused to do so.

THE PUNDIA RAMBAI IN

HONGKONG.

The Indian lady known as the Pundia Ram-

ba, who arrived in Hongkong a few days ago

from America, had a reception at the house of

Mr. Baxendale last evening, when she explained

the object of her visit to the West. The Pundia

was accompanied by Dr. Mary Ryder of

New York, who goes to India with her. There

were a number of Indian merchants and resi-

dents present and a few Europeans. The

distinguished lady was introduced to the visitors

by Mr. Baxendale, who gave a short history of her

life and also of her mission, the establishing

in India of a training school for the "child

widows" and a hospital for women on Euro-

pean principles. The Pundia, who is a lady

of medium height, and with the exception of

her costume, would almost pass for a European.

She has a dark complexion, but her eyes are

intelligent and rather handsome countenance,

and large dark eyes, which, when she speaks, are

lit up with animation. She speaks English

fluently and with scarcely any perceptible

accent.

In response to the invitation of Mr. Baxendale

she explained more fully her views on the work

she has undertaken. In the course of a well-

directed speech lasting about half an hour, the

Pundia, who is a lady of fine presence, and

who has been twice married, and who has been

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something for the emancipation and education

of their own countrywomen. In conclusion, she

thanked those present for their kind attention

and also those who had given her the oppor-

tunity of making them.

At the conclusion of the Pundia's address,

Dr. Mary Ryder, in response to an invitation, ex-

plained more fully the part of the work which

she had undertaken. She said that she was

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MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG PRESS.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16th, 1890.

OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION IN HONGKONG.

The Government has been a long time in making up its mind on the interpretation question, but the scheme which has at length been presented will, we think, commend itself to the legal faculty and to the public. The Governor, in his message to the Legislative Council on the subject, commences by a few general observations on interpretation intended to show that ideal perfection is unattainable, and that the gap between present deficiency and what is practically obtainable is not so large as a superficial consideration of the subject is apt to indicate. If the interpretation is not so bad as it might be it is certainly very far from being good. The piece measure of the deficiency cannot of course be stated in words, but it is sufficiently great to induce the Governor to present to the Council a very liberal scheme for bringing about an improvement. The scheme is divided into three divisions, the first of which deals with the encouragement of proficiency in the Chinese language amongst the members of the Service generally; the second with the encouragement of the acquisition of the Chinese language by European boys with a view to their employment as interpreters; while the third part of the scheme relates exclusively to the Police Force. At present the only facility extended to members of the Service to acquire a knowledge of Chinese is the allowance of a teacher's salary, which is supposed to be returned in full should the student fail in passing any of his examinations, though we believe this condition has never been enforced. Having passed his examinations he does not become entitled as of right to any increase of salary or bonus, and the sole encouragement to him to enter on the course of study is the idea that a knowledge of Chinese will assist his advancement in the Service. The new scheme holds out more direct encouragement. Allowance for a teacher is to be continued, and on passing the examination an allowance, or bonus, is to be given, varying from \$300 to \$600, according to the examination passed and the salary of the officer. Having passed the examination, the allowance for a teacher will be continued for a further period of three years provided the Board of Examiners are satisfied at the end of each year that the teaching is being profited by. It is unnecessary to dwell on the importance of the European officers in all departments possessing a knowledge of the language, so as not to be entirely dependent on Chinese interpreters, who may not always be entirely trustworthy, and who at all events will be more painstaking if they know their chief is capable of following and checking the interpretation. A little knowledge in this case, so far from being a dangerous thing, will be found extremely useful. Apart from direct interpretation, knowledge of the language on the part of the officials will not only enable them to acquire a much better acquaintance with the people but will cause them to be held in higher esteem; for, as is well known, the Chinese respect a foreigner who knows their language, other things being equal, more than one who does not.

The scheme presented by the Governor seems admirably adapted to bring about a more general study of the Chinese language on the part of the public servants. In matters of detail it may perhaps require some little amendment. An officer in receipt of a salary under \$200 a month is to receive an allowance of \$400 on passing in written and colloquial Chinese, and one of \$300 for colloquial only, but it is not stated whether, having passed in colloquial he can go up again for examination in the written language and receive the extra \$100, nor, if so, at what limit of time he may do so. There is, we believe, some dissatisfaction amongst those members of the Service who have already acquired a knowledge of Chinese at the provision that the money allowance for proficiency is to be given "only in respect of districts which officers have hitherto not professed to understand, or in which they have not hitherto been employed to interpret." While we would advocate that suitable recognition should be made, either by personal allowance or otherwise, of a useful knowledge of Chinese, on the part of any officer, we cannot see that those who have passed their examinations under the old scheme are entitled to come in under the new scheme. The offer made by the Government is in the nature of a reward for future exertion. The recognition of present qualifications or past services rests on quite a different footing and must be treated in every case on its own merits. Another point that has been raised is whether the salary qualifying for the higher scale of allowance should not be placed at \$150 instead of \$200. Allowing that it is reasonable to make a difference, on the presumption that the more highly paid officers are men of superior education and that they will prove more efficient in the use of their knowledge of the language, it is contended that making \$200 the line of division rules out a number of men whose educational qualifications ought to render them eligible for the higher scale, and that to take \$150 as the limit would be more equitable.

The Interpretation Commission naturally had its attention attracted by the excellent material for an efficient interpretation service to be found amongst the boys of the non-Chinese community, many of whom speak Chinese almost as fluently as they do English. With the exception of Mr. BAIL, the accomplished chief interpreter of the Supreme Court, all the interpreters for the Chinese language are Chinese, whose knowledge of English is in some instances very defective, and even when English is spoken fluently there is sometimes a want of that general education which is requisite for the thorough grasping of our familiar ideas when presented to them. In

future appointments of Chinese interpreters we would advocate their being subjected to a much stiffer examination in English language and literature than has hitherto been the case. That matter, however, does not enter into the present scheme, which deals solely with the acquisition of the Chinese language by Europeans. In order to put the suggestion of the Commissioners as to Colonial boys to the test of experiment, three student interpreters, who are to be under sixteen years of age, to have shown an aptitude for acquiring the Chinese language, and to have distinguished themselves in the examination for the Colonial scholarship or other similar competition, each to be attached to some department of the Public Service. The salary of these boys is to be \$40 a month, payable subject to satisfactory progress being made, and at the end of three years they are to receive appointments to offices with salaries of not less than \$100 a month. This seems to afford a very favourable opening for boys, and at the same time is calculated to secure really efficient interpreters. In the Police Force also greater inducements are held out under the new scheme for the acquisition of Chinese, amounts varying from \$250 to \$10 per month being offered to European members of the Force who pass the prescribed examinations, and \$1 to \$5 to Indians. In no branch of the service is a knowledge of the colloquial more requisite than in the Police Force, and the encouragement now held out to the members ought to encourage its acquisition. At present the amounts given to constables for proficiency under the old scheme are \$250 per month for Europeans and \$1 for Indians. The scheme as a whole, we think, been drafted on very practical lines, though, as already remarked, it may be susceptible of improvement in details.

THE DOCTORS ON OPIUM SMOKING.

In its last issue *The Friend of China*, the organ of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade, devotes a note to the annual report of the Colonial Surgeon of Hongkong, who is described as "an old-fashioned" Dr. AYRES wrote:

Opium-smoking, held forth as the Chinaman's greatest vice, is certainly not to be compared in its effects with the more common vice of opium eating. It is a habit to which the Chinese, as a nation, are not given. Instead of making such an utter and wasteful use of money in trying to get opium, a Chinaman, once he has got it, will use it with great care and economy, and will not smoke more than is necessary to get him through the day. The evidence of two witnesses on the other side is then given in the shape of extracts from hospital reports. Mr. HOBSON, of the Opium Refuge, Ning-shi, Kan-shi, says:—

"The crimes of the men often startle me from my slumbers, as I do not sleep very soundly. Two men fell down and fainted through excessive pain, each in the night, when they were taken to the hospital. Dr. DUGALL CHRISTIE, of the Moulken Hospital, says that all opium smokers received into the hospital suffered seriously. The *Friend of China* states to give it prominence, but standing alone it is of little importance. The tobacco smoker suffers when he is deprived of his pipe. The question is as to the character of the suffering, whether it is such as to require medical treatment. That no special treatment is required is, we think, conclusively established by Dr. AYRES's evidence, which we accept as more unimpeachable on this point than that of all the gentlemen in charge of missionary hospitals combined, because the conditions under which his observations are made are more favourable to accuracy. When Dr. AYRES came to the colony he found the opium smokers admitted to get treated in much the same manner as they are in the missionary hospitals. It was believed that sudden deprivation of the drug would be injurious to their health, and they were accordingly put under special treatment, being allowed so much opium, and decreasing the quantity every day, and at the same time stimulants and tonics in the shape of gin and quinine were given them. This was discontinued by Dr. AYRES, who for fifteen years has had the opportunity of watching the effect of the change, not on voluntary patients, like those the medical missionaries receive under their treatment, but on involuntary patients of the criminal class. If Dr. AYRES, like Mr. HOBSON, slept within ear-shot of the men deprived of opium, and was ready to rush to their side to soothe and comfort them when they cried out, we have no doubt they would cry out a good deal. Conceding honesty on both sides, which every one will be ready to do, the only way of reconciling the conflicting testimony of the professional men is to suppose that the medical missionaries are, as Dr. AYRES expressed it in one of his reports, bamboozled. In a good bamboozling is not such an easy matter as it may reasonably be supposed to be in a missionary hospital, where the patients do not enter under compulsion, but have to be attracted, and remain only according to their own pleasure.

That opium is an unmitigated good as one will contend, and an employer who wanted to engage a servant would naturally give the preference to a non-smoker. The habit encourages idleness, and if carried to excess

renders a man unreliable, just as excessive drinking does. In some cases, the craving no doubt, becomes so strong, like the craving for drink, that a man will sacrifice everything, including even food, in order to gratify it. Such cases constitute only a small proportion in relation to the total number of smokers, but that they do exist must be accepted as a fact. If they were numerous we could not fail to meet with plenty of them in Hongkong, but none of the Missionary Societies have thought it necessary to establish an opium refuge here. It is, however, from the extreme cases that the anti-opiumists draw their pictures, just as the teetotal lecturer draws his from the habitual and confirmed drunkard. Dr. CHRISTIE, in his report on the Moulken Hospital, says with touching conditions, good food, and comfortable surroundings may use the drug for a lengthened period without any apparent deleterious results, but long indulgence in the habit, even under the most favourable circumstances, diminishes functional activity in the nervous system, impeding the growth of intellect, and ultimately producing structural changes in important organs, are facts beyond question. Unfortunately, however, the opinion of the drug does not often meet with much vital resistance, for a short course in most instances leads to a very depriving the victim—not of opium, for the supply must increase with the craving—but of the necessary sustenance, involving the health, and so on, the system becomes moribund, and the patient is left a mere husk, and the functional and organic changes referred to, another fact should be noted, which the Chinese are not slow to recognize, and that is that the higher faculties are affected, the moral sensibility blunted. Hence the opium-smoker cannot be trusted in word or deed, and I am informed that no merchant in this city will employ a man who smokes with the pipe. Above all classes they need our sympathy and help, for few have power to resist the craving when the habit is once established, however willing to give it up.

Here we have the admission that opium smoking may be indulged in for a lengthened period without any apparent deleterious results—what is more than some of the anti-opiumists would admit with regard to tobacco. Dr. CHRISTIE's statement bears on the face of it the evidence of unconscious exaggeration. Starting with a pre-conceived opinion to generalize from extreme cases and give an altogether misleading idea of the true state of affairs. Naturally the moderate smokers do not trouble themselves on the notice of the missionary, whose data is as incomplete as would be the data of the temperance reformer whose observations were confined to gin palaces.

THE CURRENCY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES OF CHINA.

A circular has been issued by the Council of the China Branch of the Asiatic Society, soliciting information regarding the currency and measures in use in all parts of China. A series of questions, twenty-one in number, is given, of which ten refer to the currency, the other twelve being divided between weights and measures of capacity, length, and area. Important as a uniform system of weights and measures must be, still more important to the commercial prosperity of a country is a uniform currency. China notwithstanding the kind exists. In the shouping provinces, and even in towns of the same province, facts of varying value are used as the standard, and which commercial transactions are regulated, while the circulating medium for small transactions is broken silver and cash, and for larger ones those of specie. The relative value of the cash to the tael changes almost daily. The labouring population are the chief sufferers from the constantly changing value of the tael, and disputes between masters and servants as to the quality of the cash paid as wages are frequent. In commerce an immense army of sheriffs has to be maintained to test the value of silver as it passes from hand to hand, the salaries of these expensive servants diminishing the legitimate profit of business, which also suffer from the squeezing of exact information as to its extent and conditions. This service the S. S. Branch of the Asiatic Society proposes to render to China in respect of its currency. The establishment of a mint at Canton is an indication that the necessity for an improved currency is beginning to make itself apparent, even to conservative Chinese officials, while the rapidly with which Hongkong subsidiary coins are absorbed shows how gladly the people would welcome the convenience of a regulated and stable monetary system. The *N. C. Daily News* suggests that the necessity of establishing something in the nature of a general currency throughout the Empire before railways can be introduced on a large scale may help currency reform forward—which seems rather like putting the cart before the horse, for the railway has already been introduced in the North while currency reform appears to be commencing in the South. It is not to be expected that the Chinese should appreciate so vividly the necessity of basing coins in connection with railways that they would delay the construction of the latter until they had provided the former; but railways, even the solitary Tientsin line, will do much towards establishing the necessity for a national and uniform currency, for, as our Shanghai contemporary says, it will be almost impossible to work railways while the silver and cash of one place is not accepted for its use value a few fields or a mile or two further on. Our contemporary appears to think that when the time for action arrives a paper currency will be decided upon. A paper currency is undoubtedly the most economical, it also has many conveniences, and it has been readily accepted by the Japanese people, but we doubt whether paper could be made to enter very largely into the national currency in use in China are in a state of confusion no less than that in which the currency is found. The Asiatic Society asks its correspondents to state what weights of capacity are known, their relative densities, what weights of length, what variations are known from the table (taels = 1 catt, 100 catties = 1 picul; and whether the tael of currency bears any

exact relation to the ratio of commerce. What is called in one district is not recognized as such in another, and the number of catties that go to a picul is not much less variable. Measures of capacity, length, and area are as indeterminate as those of weight. While such a state of things is disgraceful to the Chinese as a nation it says no little for their commercial ability individually that with varying values and measures they should be able to carry on trade to the extent they do and to work out their transactions with such exactness.

SALARIES AND EXCHANGE.

The Legislative Council of this colony recently expressed the opinion that members of the Civil Service were entitled to an increase in their salaries in view of the fall in the sterling value of the dollar. This opinion is endorsed, we believe, by the public generally, and we sincerely hope it will be assented to by the Secretary of State. Our attention has been recalled to this subject by an article in the *St. James's Gazette* on "India as a career," in which young Englishmen are advised to think twice before deciding that India offers the best field for their enterprise. It is pointed out that the salaries of Englishmen in India are no longer what they were, and that it has become a serious question whether a life of exile in a climate always unpleasant for Europeans is worth living when the only tangible consolation is a salary which a moderately successful barrister or doctor at home would scoff at. There is, it is said, a prevalent notion that the Indian salaries are still high notwithstanding the fall of exchange; but this is a fallacy, founded probably on the fact that a few exalted officials are fairly well paid—Lieutenant-governors, for instance, members of the Council, and heads of departments—and it is inferred, quite erroneously, that the salaries paid to the rank-and-file are fixed of the same apparently liberal scale. We say apparently liberal, because even the highest officials find their pay seriously diminished by the fall in exchange. Even the Viceroy—who is paid, like the youngest competition *salutis*, in rupees—is likely to find his means of his own; and a scrutiny of Viceroyal expenditure would most likely show that the last three Viceroys, at any rate, so far from being able to save, have spent more than they earned. The most important point made by the writer is the injury this decline in the value of the salaries paid is calculated to exercise on the efficiency of the Service. Sir LEFEL GREVILLE has to have declined an influential and coveted appointment because the expense of keeping on a proper establishment would be prohibitive. "The Government has refused to compensate its servants for the fall in the value of silver; and it must be prepared for the consequences. Indian salaries were originally fixed on what was then a liberal basis, in order to secure a high standard of official integrity and public zeal. With salaries reduced by the fall in exchange and in other ways, that standard cannot be maintained. The tone of the European agency will be affected and the prestige of British rule in India will inevitably suffer. Flattering zeal will tend to laxity of conduct. Official scandals in India are too frequent already, and we may expect to hear more of them." These remarks apply *pari passu* to this and all the other Eastern colonies, and are well worth pondering over. With the fall in exchange the cost of living has increased to some extent, the prices of European goods having advanced, while those who have expenses at home for the education of children, life insurance, and so on, find remittances cost much more in dollars than was formerly the case. House rent has also advanced considerably, and though this results from other causes than the fall in exchange it may appropriately be taken into consideration in connection with any scheme for the readjustment of salaries. The loss in exchange is felt most, perhaps, in connection with its savings. Every one, if he is wise, looks to save something out of his salary. The amount that a man could save formerly in four years would now take him five, if the amount be turned into sterling, as it must be ultimately if a return to England is intended. Thus one year in five is devoted to making up the loss in exchange. Non-official salaries are affected to some extent in the same way, but in commerce matters are more elastic than in Government service and adapt themselves more readily to circumstances. The question of the effect of exchange on salaries has probably been dealt with by many houses, but where it has not been action in this direction would probably follow the readjustment of official salaries. The latter would be a public indication of the necessity of the one, and the example could not fail to exercise some influence in the commercial world.

THE MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND FREE TRADE.

From the telegrams brought on by the Australian mail we learn that the Manchester Chamber of Commerce has carried by a large majority resolutions favoring a policy of what is termed fair trade. It is proposed that import duties should be levied on foreign goods equivalent to the estimated amount of rates and fees incurred in the production of similar goods in Great Britain. The *Economist* characterizes the arguments advanced in support of the proposition as illogical and ineffective, and says that if the movement is associated in India will retaliate by placing an export duty on raw cotton and an import duty on manufactures. The proposition of the Manchester Chamber differs in some degree from the "fair trade" doctrine. The latter proposes to levy taxes on goods from countries which impose

taxes on British goods, but would accord free admission to goods from countries which either have no regulations or which the captains of the Merchant Marine are given orders in the matter, or in the mode of carrying them out, adopted by this particular captain. At present we have no knowledge of that point. It would not allow the matter to pass, however. It brings out in a very strong light the inconveniences suffered in this colony by the passing of these acts, and I have hopes that with the assistance given by the Committee of the Manchester Chamber, a meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute, held some eighteen months or two years ago. A calculation was entered into to show what proportion of the cost of manufactured iron and steel must be set down to taxation in the shape of rates on premises, etc., and it was contended that foreign manufacturers should contribute in the same proportion. This proposal was modestly advanced on what were represented as equitable grounds, and not as in any way striking at the fundamental principle of free trade. When, however, its wrappings of verbiage are torn away the proposal resolves itself into protection pure and simple. What is aimed at is the crippling of foreign competitors in the home markets by making them pay two sets of taxes instead of one. Home manufacturers have to pay rates for police protection, for the maintenance of roads, and for the purposes of government generally. Foreign manufacturers contribute nothing to these purposes in Great Britain, but they have to pay equivalent taxes in their own countries. As they receive no protection or facilities from the British Government up to the time of the arrival of their goods in British ports payment of British taxes cannot be demanded from them on the ground of services rendered. Any proposal to tax imports, for other than revenue purposes, necessarily resolves itself into protection pure and simple. That Manchester should have been so far led away from true commercial principles as to pass such a resolution as that referred to in the Australian telegrams is, indeed surprising. It was by the persistent efforts of Manchester that import duties on cotton manufactures in India were abolished, and now Manchester proposes that England should adopt the very principle she condemns in others. There is a strong feeling in India in favour of import duties, and if the new Manchester view prevailed in England India could not be denied the right to set upon it also, and a formidable barrier to British trade would be set up. But apart from any question of retaliation by India or any other country the proposal is thoroughly bad. Its intention is to keep out foreign goods. A country that will not buy cannot expect to sell, and seeing that England exists almost entirely by her trade, the food supplies of her own production not being sufficient for her population, to set up artificial barriers to trade would be suicidal. If manufacturers have any right to protection, called by any name whatsoever, agriculturists have an equal right to protection for their industry, and so we should be led back to the corn laws, were the resolution of the Manchester Chamber carried into effect. As the British public would not consent to have its food taxed, the movement is not likely to develop into a popular agitation.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Legislative Council met on the 10th inst. There were present—
His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir WILLIAM DE VERA, K.C.M.G.
Hon. E. STURGEON, L.L.D., Colonial Secretary.
Hon. B. L. O'NEILL, Attorney-General.
Hon. H. E. WOODHOUSE, C.M.G., Colonial Treasurer.
Hon. W. M. DEANE, Captain Superintendent of Police.
Hon. P. RYER.
Hon. WONG SHING.
Hon. B. LAYTON.
Mr. SETH, Clerk of Council.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

THE PROPOSED DRAINAGE SCHEME.

Hon. B. LAYTON.—Pursuant to notice, Sir I beg to ask whether the Bill of the proposed Drainage Scheme has been forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies?
His EXCELLENCY.—In answer to the Hon. member, I have to inform him that Mr. LEIGH's report has not yet been forwarded to the Secretary of State, but that a despatch has been sent to him requesting that a decision on the subject be arrived at until this report is sent home. Mr. LEIGH's report is a most important one, and requires grave consideration. In the very abundant work that is required of the Surveyor-General, especially on the eve of his leaving the Colony for good, it has not been possible to refer to the subject of the drainage scheme. The Government naturally will require on the point. I have not received them as yet; when I do I shall forward the report at once. I may say in the meantime that the views of the Hon. member, which require grave consideration, in the very abundant work that is required of the Surveyor-General, especially on the eve of his leaving the Colony for good, it has not been possible to refer to the subject of the drainage scheme. 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